

A Bibliography of British Ornithology.¹— Three more parts of this work which was first noticed in 'The Auk' 1916, p. 443, have since appeared carrying it well through the letter 'R'. Among the most interesting of the biographical sketches are those of Latham, MacGillivray, and Pennant. The first we learn was a strict disciple of the Linnæan School, and strongly prejudiced against the growing innovations upon his master's nomenclature, which were even then being made on the Continent. Latham's plan to describe all known birds, while thoroughly commendable, was too great for his talents, especially when we consider the vast number of new birds quite unknown to Linnaeus which were at this time pouring into the museums of Europe. Of MacGillivray, whose collaboration with Audubon brings him into close connection with American ornithology, it is sad to learn that no detailed biography has ever been written and that the materials for such do not now exist. Pennant a descendant of a distinguished Welsh family united more than an average ability as a naturalist with the reputation of an elegant scholar and refined gentleman.

In glancing over the long list of the contributors to British ornithology one is struck by the very small number of titles from the pens of many of the foremost bird students that England has produced — such as Godman, G. R. Gray, Gould, etc. These men labored almost entirely in wider fields, leaving the British avifauna to others who preferred to concentrate their attention on the home birds, and who in consequence are for the most part but little known to the world at large.

The excellent typography of the first part of the work is fully maintained and when finally bound up it will form a handsome volume as well as a storehouse of information.— W. S.

Cory on New South American Birds.²— In a recent publication Mr. Cory describes three new subspecies of South American birds from the collections of the Field Museum of Natural History, as follows: *Nyctipolus hirundinaceus cearæ* (p. 4) Quixada, Ceara, Brazil; *Scardafella squammata cearæ* (p. 6), same locality and *Leptotila ochroptera approximans* (p. 7) Serra Baturite, Ceara, Brazil. There is also discussion on the races of *Nyctipolus hirundinaceus* and on the southern forms of *Speotyto cunicularia* and some further remarks on the author's *Piaya cayana venezuelensis*.— W. S.

Oberholser on the Birds of Bawean Island.³— In this paper Mr. Oberholser describes a collection made by Dr. W. L. Abbott on Bawean Island, in the Java Sea about 175 miles south of Borneo. The collection

¹ A Bibliography of British Ornithology from the Earliest times to the End of 1912. By W. H. Mullins and H. Kirke Swann. MacMillan and Co. 1916. Svo. Pts. II-IV, each 6/net.

² Notes on Little Known Species of South American Birds with Descriptions of New Subspecies. By Charles B. Cory. Field Museum of Nat. Hist. Publ. 193. Zoölogical Series, Vol. XII, No. 1. January 25, 1917. pp. 3-7.

³ The Birds of Bawean Island, Java Sea. By Harry C. Oberholser. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. 52, pp. 183-198. February 8, 1917.